

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/582,495 Examiner Hector M Reyes	Applicant(s) OHGA ET AL. Art Unit 1625
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-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/12/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,6,7,9,10,12,13,24-34, renumbered as 1-18.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/26/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority Documents

Applicants claim priority benefits on 60141247; 60147812 and 60162896. On the record there is a certified copy of the said applications. Examiner acknowledges English translation of each of the corresponding documents.

Status of The Claims

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14-23 had been canceled. Currently, claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 24-34 are under Examination. Claims 10, 12 and 13 had been renumbered as claims 1 to 3. Claims 30, 4, 6, 7 and 9 had been renumbered as claims 4 to 8. Claims 31, 24, 29, 26, and 32 had been renumbered as claims 9 to 13. Claims 33, 25, 28, 27 and 34 had been renumbered as claims 14 to 18.

Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In renumbered claims 1 to 18, Applicants claims a series of hydrogenation processes wherein an ester is produced. In claims 1 to 3, a carboxylic acid is required in a 1% wt or less in the reaction mixture. In claims 4 to 8, the inert solvent required is the hydrogenated ester. In claims 9 to 13 and claims 14 to 18, the claimed processes require the described catalyst with acidity of 1.0×10^{-1} mol/g or less.

No prior art disclosing or suggesting the instant invention was found. The closest art relevant to Applicant's instant invention was found in Tanaka Yasutaka et al, JP 9-194427 A.

Tanaka discloses the hydrogenation of esters using a nickel catalyst in order to obtain the corresponding ester. Nonetheless, Tanaka lacks to disclose the use of the said ester a solvent, the specific acidity of the catalyst use in the instant invention or the need of incorporating the carboxylic acid as described in the instant invention.

CONCLUSION

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

All post-Allowance Correspondence concerning this Application must be mailed to:

**BOX ISSUE FEE
COMMISIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231**

Or you can fax them to the Office of Patent Publications at 703-308-5083, in order to expedite the handling of such correspondence as amendments under 37 CFR 1.312; information disclosure statements, and formal drawings. Sending Post-Allowance papers to Technology Center 1600 will only cause delays in matching papers with the case.

For information concerning status of correspondence sent after receipt of the Notice of Allowance, please contact the Correspondence Branch at (703) 305-8027.

Héctor M. Reyes, PhD JD
AU 1625
June 12, 2004

R. Reyes
6/14/04